

REMARKS

Claims Allowed

In the office action, claims 7, 9, 14, 15, 17-21, 23 and 24 have been allowed.
Applicants extend gratitude for the favorable disposition given by the Examiner.

Priority

In the office action, the Examiner acknowledges that a certified copy of the foreign priority document has been received. However, a translation of the same has not yet been provided. Applicants are filing a translation of the priority document under a separate cover.

Oath/Declaration

The Examiner contends that the declaration is defective because it does not identify the mailing address of each inventor. In response, Applicants are filing a new declaration under a separate cover.

Claim Objections

Claims 6, 8 and 13 have been objected to for being directed to SEQ ID NO: 2 in the absence of SEQ ID NO: 1. In response, Applicants have amended claims 6 and 13 to be directed to SEQ ID NO:1, only. Claim 8 is directed to SEQ ID NO: 1 and SEQ ID NO: 2.

Claim 11 has been objected to for containing the acronym ICL. In response, Applicants have amended claim 11 to insert the words "isocitrate lyase."

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objections to the claims be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim Rejections Under §112

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Claims 16, 22, 25 and 26 have been rejected under §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. According to the Examiner, the recitation in claim 16 of “a dextranase encoding a gene from *P. minioluteum*” is unclear. In response, Applicants have amended claim 16 to read “a gene encoding a dextranase from *P. minioluteum*.”

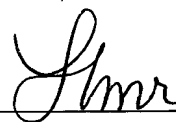
The term “preferably” has been deemed to render claim 22 indefinite. In response, Applicants have amended claim 22 to remove the term “preferably.”

Claim 25 has been rejected for containing multiple periods. In response, Applicants have amended claim 25 to remove the periods and replace them with parentheses.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections under §112 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The application is now believed to be in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any remaining issues that he believes can be resolved over the telephone, he is invited to contact the undersigned at his convenience.

Respectfully submitted,



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